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REPORTS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES

Compendium of draft proposals from subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council requiring action by the Council or brought to its attention

Note by the Secretariat

SUMMARY

In annex I, paragraph 68, of its resolution 50/227, the General Assembly stated that the subsidiary bodies of the Council should identify in their reports their conclusions and recommendations and the issues that might require attention and/or action by the Council. It also stated that the Secretariat should consolidate those issues in a single document for consideration and action. The Secretariat has prepared the present document in compliance with that request. Addenda will be issued as necessary.

* E/1997/100.

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CONTENTS

Page

DRAFT PROPOSALS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION 10

A. Functional commissions 10

1. Statistical Commission 10
(see E/1997/24 for the complete report of the Commission)

(a) Matters calling for action by the Council

Draft decision entitled "Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission" 10

(b) Matters brought to the attention of the Council (see E/1997/24, paragraph 2)

2. Commission on Population and Development 12
(see E/1997/25 for the complete report of the Commission)

(a) Matters calling for action by the Council

1. Draft resolution entitled "International migration and development" 13

2. Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirtieth session and provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Commission" 14

(b) Matters brought to the attention of the Council (texts contained in the report of the Commission)

1. Commission resolution 1997/1 entitled "Technical symposium on international migration"

2. Commission resolution 1997/2 entitled "Reporting requirements to the Commission on Population and Development"

3. Commission resolution 1997/3 entitled "Work programme in the field of population"

3. Commission for Social Development 16
(see E/1997/26 for the complete report of the Commission)

(a) Matters calling for action by the Council

CONTENTS (continued)

		Page
1.	Draft resolution entitled "International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages"	16
2.	Draft resolution entitled "Equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities"	19
3.	Draft resolution entitled "Children with disabilities"	22
4.	Draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, including a World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth"	24
5.	Draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the International Year of the Family"	26
6.	Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-fifth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission"	28
7.	Commission decision 35/101 entitled "Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development"	29
(b)	Matters brought to the attention of the Council (texts contained in the report of the Commission)	
1.	Commission resolution 1997/1 entitled "Fourth review and appraisal of the International Plan of Action on Ageing"	
2.	Commission resolution 1997/2 entitled "Productive employment and sustainable livelihoods"	
3.	Commission decision 35/102 entitled "Chairman's summary of the dialogue with the chairpersons of the inter-agency task forces on follow-up to international conferences and of the panel discussions on productive employment and sustainable livelihoods"	
4.	Commission decision 35/103 entitled "Documents considered in connection with the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development"	
5.	Commission decision 35/104 entitled "Documents considered in connection with programme questions and other matters"	

CONTENTS (continued)

Page

4. Commission on the Status of Women 29
(see E/1997/27 for the complete report of the Commission)

(a) Matters calling for action by the Council

1. Draft resolution entitled "Palestinian women" 30

2. Draft resolution entitled "Agreed conclusions on the critical areas of concern" 31

3. Draft decision entitled "Renewal of the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" 33

4. Draft decision entitled "Functional commissions" 33

5. Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission" 34

(b) Matters brought to the attention of the Council
(texts contained in the report of the Commission)

1. Commission's agreed conclusions 1997/1 entitled "Women and the environment"

2. Commission's agreed conclusions 1997/2 entitled "Women in power and decision-making"

3. Commission's agreed conclusions 1997/3 entitled "Women and the economy"

4. Commission's agreed conclusions 1997/4 entitled "Education and training of women"

5. Commission resolution 41/1 entitled "Release of women and children taken hostage in armed conflicts, including those subsequently imprisoned"

6. Commission resolution 41/2 entitled "Older women, human rights and development"

7. Commission resolution 41/3 entitled "Elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women"

CONTENTS (continued)

Page

8. Commission resolution 41/4 entitled "Violence against women migrant workers"

9. Commission resolution 41/5 entitled "Traffic in women and girls"

10. Commission resolution 41/6 entitled "Mainstreaming gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system"

11. Commission decision 41/101 entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women"

12. Commission decision 41/102 entitled "Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat"

5. Commission on Science and Technology for Development 35
(see E/1997/31 for the complete report of the Commission)

(a) Matters calling for action by the Council

1. Draft resolution entitled "Science and technology for development" 35

2. Draft decision entitled "Election of the members of the Bureau other than the Chairman" 39

3. Draft decision entitled "Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fourth session of the Commission" 39

(b) Matters brought to the attention of the Council
(text contained in the report of the Commission)

Commission decision 3/101 entitled "Chairman's summaries of the discussions"

6. Commission on Sustainable Development 41
(see E/1997/29 for the report of the Commission on its fifth session; see also A/S-19/14-E/1997/60 for the report of the Commission acting as the preparatory body for the special session of the General Assembly on an overall review and appraisal of Agenda 21)

Matters brought to the attention of the Council
(texts contained in the report of the Commission)

CONTENTS (continued)

Page

1. Commission resolution 5/1 entitled "Modalities for the full and comprehensive review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States"

2. Commission decision 5/101 entitled "Proposed programme of work in the area of sustainable development for the biennium 1998-1999"

3. Commission decision 5/102 entitled "Report of the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests on its fourth session"

4. Commission decision 5/103 entitled "Reports related to the work of the Commission at its fifth session"

B. Regional commissions 41

1. Economic Commission for Europe*

(a) Matters calling for action by the Council

1. Draft decision entitled "Declaration on the Strengthening of Economic Cooperation in Europe and Plan of Action"

2. Draft decision entitled "Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled 'Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard'"

3. Draft decision entitled "United Nations Framework Classification for Reserves/Resources: Solid Fuels and Mineral Commodities"

2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific*

(a) Matters calling for action by the Council

Draft resolution entitled "Restructuring the conference secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific"

(b) Matters brought to the attention of the Council

1. Commission resolution 53/2 entitled "Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action"

---

* All draft proposals from the regional commissions are contained in document E/1997/40/Add.1.

CONTENTS (continued)

Page

2. Commission resolution 53/3 entitled "Framework for the North-East Subregional Programme of Environmental Cooperation"

3. Commission resolution 53/4 entitled "Elimination of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and youth in Asia and the Pacific"

3. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean*

Matters calling for action by the Council

Committee of the Whole resolution entitled "Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of reform of the United Nations"

4. Economic Commission for Africa*

(a) Matters calling for action by the Council

1. Draft resolution entitled "Reform of the intergovernmental machinery of the Economic Commission for Africa"

2. Draft resolution entitled "Programme of work and priorities of the Economic Commission for Africa for the biennium 1998-1999"

(b) Matters brought to the attention of the Council

1. Commission resolution 827 (XXXII) entitled "Rationalization and harmonization of ECA-sponsored institutions"

2. Commission resolution 828 (XXXII) entitled "Multinational Programming and Operational Centres: strengthening the Economic Commission for Africa's subregional presence"

3. Commission resolution 829 (XXXII) entitled "Follow-up to the Kampala Action Plan on Peace and Development and the African Platform for Action: creation of the African Women Committee on Peace"

5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia*

Matters calling for action by the Council

1. Draft resolution entitled "Programme of work and priorities for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the biennium 1998-1999"

CONTENTS (continued)

Page

2. Draft resolution entitled "Medium-term plan of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the period 1998-2001"

3. Draft resolution entitled "Programme of work and priorities of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia for the biennium 1998-1999"

4. Draft resolution entitled "Change in the frequency of the sessions of the Committee on Water Resources of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia"

5. Draft resolution entitled "Establishment of the Committee on Transport of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia"

6. Draft resolution entitled "Establishment of the Technical Committee on Liberalization of Foreign Trade and Economic Globalization in the Countries of the ESCWA Region"

7. Draft resolution entitled "Progress made in facilitating the relocation of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia to its permanent headquarters at Beirut"

8. Draft resolution entitled "Organizational and programme changes and modifications introduced by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia since 1994"

9. Draft resolution entitled "Celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in 1999 and role of the Commission in the coming century"

C. Expert bodies composed of governmental experts 41

Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods 41
(see E/1997/16 for the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee)

Draft resolution entitled "Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods" 41

D. Expert bodies composed of members serving in their own capacity ... 45

Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (the report of the Committee on its sixteenth session will be issued under the symbol E/1997/22/Add.1)

CONTENTS (continued)

		Page
1.	Draft decision entitled "Extraordinary additional session for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights"	45
2.	Draft decision entitled "Holding of the nineteenth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in New York from 16 November to 4 December 1998".....	45
3.	Draft decision entitled "Payment of honoraria to members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights"	46

DRAFT PROPOSALS FROM SUBSIDIARY BODIES CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Functional commissions

1. STATISTICAL COMMISSION

The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

DRAFT DECISION

Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-ninth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-ninth session;

(b) Decides that the thirtieth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 1 to 5 March 1999;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Commission set out below.

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirtieth session of the Statistical Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session

3. International trade statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics

4. International economic and social classifications.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications

5. Statistical implications of recent major United Nations conferences.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on implementation and use of the Minimum National Social Data Set

Report on the seminar on poverty statistics, organized by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with other regional commissions

6. Aspects of economic statistics.

Documentation

Reports of the groups carrying out work on various aspects of economic statistics, including evaluation of the International Comparison Programme

7. Environment statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Environment Statistics

8. Service statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Service Statistics

9. National accounts.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on National Accounts

Draft classification of individual consumption by purpose

Draft classification of the functions of government

Draft classification of the purposes of the non-profit institutions serving households

Draft classification of outlays of producers by purpose

10. Finance statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Finance Statistics

11. Technical cooperation.

Documentation

Report on the initiative to develop best practices and other issues

12. Coordination and integration of international statistical programmes.

Documentation

Report of the Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination on its nineteenth session

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Subcommittee on Statistical Activities on its thirty-first and thirty-second sessions

Report of the special ad hoc group on the structure and operation of the Statistical Commission

Report on an integrated presentation of statistical work of the international organizations

13. Programme questions and related matters.

Documentation

Draft programme of work of the Statistics Division of the United Nations for the biennium 2000-2001

Proposals concerning the medium-term plan for statistics

14. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-first session of the Commission.

15. Report of the Commission on its thirtieth session.

2. COMMISSION ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT

A. Draft resolution

The Commission on Population and Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

International migration and development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 49/127 of 19 December 1994, 50/123 of 20 December 1995 and 51/176 of 16 December 1996,

Recalling also the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[1] in particular chapter X on international migration,

Recalling further the relevant provisions contained in the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development[2] and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[3] and in the Platform for Action[4] adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Having considered the concise report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, 1997: international migration and development,[5]

Taking note of the activities of the Working Group on International Migration of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Task Force on Basic Social Services for All, as presented in the report of the Task Force,[6]

1. Urges both the Statistics Division and the Population Division of the United Nations Secretariat, along with the regional commissions, other relevant United Nations and intergovernmental organizations, and Governments providing technical assistance in statistics, to collaborate in the dissemination of the new set of recommendations on statistics of international migration[7] and to provide, at the request of Governments, technical assistance in implementing these recommendations;

2. Calls upon the Working Group on International Migration of the Administrative Committee on Coordination Task Force on Basic Social Services for

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[1] Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[3] Ibid., annex II.

[4] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] E/CN.9/1997/2.

[6] E/CN.9/1997/4.

[7] PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/58/Rev.1.

All to ensure that international migration remains a topic of concentration in its follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development, inter alia, by compiling a comprehensive list of issues related to international migration and development and identifying the intergovernmental mechanisms available to address them, to be submitted to the Commission on Population and Development at its thirty-first session;

3. Calls upon all relevant organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, and other intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations to collaborate and coordinate their efforts, making full use of the expertise of existing organizations, in examining international migration and development;

4. Calls upon Governments and intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations to promote and expand the exchange of information and experiences regarding international migration and development in appropriate bilateral, multilateral, regional and interregional forums.

B. Draft decision

The Commission on Population and Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirtieth session and provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirtieth session;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Commission set out below.

Provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Commission on Population and Development

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. General debate on national experience in population matters.

4. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development: health and mortality, with special emphasis on the linkages between health and development and on gender and age.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world population monitoring, focusing on health and mortality, with special emphasis on the linkages between health and development and on gender and age

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes

Report of the ACC Task Force on Basic Social Services for All dealing with the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Report of the Secretary-General on activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

5. Programme questions:

(a) Programme performance and implementation in 1997;

(b) Programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed revisions to the subprogramme on population of the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress of work in the field of population, 1997

Note by the Secretary-General on the programme of work for the biennium 1998-1999

6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-second session of the Commission

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-first session.

3. COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

A. Draft resolutions

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

International Year of Older Persons: towards a society for all ages

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolution 47/5 of 16 October 1992, in which it decided to observe the year 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons,

"Also recalling its resolution 40/30 of 29 November 1985, in which it expressed its conviction that older persons must be considered an important and necessary element in the development process at all levels within a given society,

"Mindful of the need to promote adherence to the United Nations Principles for Older Persons, as adopted in its resolution 46/91 of 16 December 1991,

"Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1993/22 of 27 July 1993, in which the Council invited member States to strengthen their national mechanisms on ageing, inter alia, to enable them to serve as national focal points for the preparations for and observance of the Year,

"Further recalling the relevant provisions of the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[1] the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,[2] and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of

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[1] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,[3] as well as of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[4] and the Habitat Agenda,[5]

"Keeping in mind that the ageing of societies in the twentieth century, unprecedented in the history of humankind, is a major challenge for all societies and requires a fundamental change in the way in which societies organize themselves and view older persons,

"1. Encourages all States, the United Nations system and all other actors, in reaching out for a future society for all ages, to take advantage of the International Year of Older Persons so as to increase awareness of the challenge of the demographic ageing of societies, the individual and social needs of older persons, the contribution of older persons to societies and the need for a change in attitudes towards older persons;

"2. Welcomes the activities undertaken by States, United Nations organizations and bodies and non-governmental organizations in preparation for the observance of the Year, and encourages them to continue their efforts;

"3. Invites States to take account of the increasing number and percentage of older persons in need of help;

"4. Also invites States to develop comprehensive strategies at the national, regional and local levels to meet the increase in demand for care and support for older persons as individuals, within their families and communities, and within institutions, bearing in mind the changing socio-economic, technological and cultural environment;

"5. Encourages States, with the support of United Nations organizations, bodies and programmes and non-governmental organizations, to formulate policies and programmes on ageing with a view to offering older persons opportunities to utilize their experience and knowledge to promote a society for all ages based on solidarity between generations, so that they can contribute to and benefit from full participation in society;

"6. Further encourages States to establish a national focal point and formulate national programmes for the Year, bearing in mind the conceptual framework referred to in General Assembly resolution 50/141 of 21 December 1995;

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[3] Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

[4] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996 (A/CONF.165/14), chap. I, annex II.

"7. Calls upon States to include a gender dimension in their national programmes for the Year;

"8. Encourages States to consider establishing ad hoc, broad-based national coordinating mechanisms for the Year in order to enhance, inter alia, collaboration with representatives of civil society;

"9. Invites States to consider convening high-level and other meetings at the regional level to discuss the theme 'A society for all ages';

"10. Invites non-governmental organizations, including those specialized in the question of older persons, to develop programmes and projects for the Year, particularly at the local level, in cooperation, inter alia, with local authorities, community leaders, enterprises, the media and schools, and encourages them to support and participate in the appropriate national coordinating mechanisms;

"11. Encourages relevant United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to support local, national and international programmes and projects for the Year and also encourages them, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, as well as international financial institutions, to ensure that the concerns and contributions of older persons are integrated into their development programmes;

"12. Emphasizes that activities for the Year should be initiated primarily at the national level;

"13. Invites national and international development agencies, bodies and international financial institutions to explore feasible approaches to improving the access of older persons to credit training and appropriate technologies for income generation, and the participation of older persons in family enterprises, community enterprises and micro enterprises;

"14. Welcomes contributions by the Commission on the Status of Women on the topic of older women in relation to the Year;

"15. Encourages the Secretary-General to allocate sufficient resources for promoting and coordinating activities for the Year, bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 47/5, in which it was decided that observance of the Year would be supported from resources of the regular budget for the biennium 1998-1999 and from voluntary contributions;

"16. Invites States to consider actively supporting the United Nations Secretariat in the preparation and implementation of the projects for the Year, inter alia, through voluntary financial or personnel contributions;

"17. Welcomes the continuing efforts of the Secretariat to promote information exchange for 1999 and beyond, inter alia, through regular publication of the Bulletin on Ageing, and invites the agencies, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system to consider placing special

emphasis on the theme 'A society for all ages' in their publications, including the Human Development Report;

"18. Invites the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat to consider producing a logo and press kit as well as an exhibit for the Year and invites the United Nations Postal Administration to consider producing stamps on the theme 'A society for all ages';

"19. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session on the system-wide implementation of the present resolution;

"20. Also requests the Secretary-General to officially launch the International Year for Older Persons in 1998, on the occasion of the International Day of Older Persons;

"21. Decides to devote four plenary meetings at its fifty-fourth session to the follow-up to the Year, which should take place at an appropriate global policy-making level."

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, which designates a focal point within the United Nations for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action, including its review and appraisal, and General Assembly resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[6] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[7] and other international human rights instruments which proclaim that the rights therein should be ensured equally to all individuals, without discrimination,

Recalling further the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[8] in which Governments are requested to promote the Standard Rules

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[6] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[7] General Assembly resolution 44/25.

[8] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

and to develop strategies for their implementation and in which it is emphasized that policies concerning persons with disabilities should focus on their abilities rather than their disabilities,

Recalling also that children with disabilities and their families or other caretakers have special needs,

Noting with great satisfaction that the Standard Rules play an important role in influencing legislation, policies, action and evaluations at both the national and international levels,

Acknowledging the active role played by non-governmental organizations, including organizations of persons with disabilities, in support of the Standard Rules and their contribution to the implementation and monitoring of the Rules,

Concerned about the effects of the current budgetary constraints of the United Nations on its disability activities,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the valuable work done by the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development and welcomes his comprehensive report;[9]

2. Urges the United Nations, Governments and the non-governmental organizations concerned to strengthen their efforts to implement at all levels, by appropriate legal, administrative, financial and other measures, the goal of full participation and equality for persons with disabilities, in accordance with the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to give higher priority to disability activities and to allocate the resources necessary to enable the United Nations Secretariat to fulfil its function as focal point in a forceful way;

4. Urges the Secretary-General and Governments to further the effective implementation of the Standard Rules and to emphasize the dimension of human rights, including that dimension for persons with developmental and psychiatric disabilities;

5. Also urges the Secretary-General and Governments to give full attention to a gender perspective in all policies and programmes related to disability;

6. Further urges the Secretary-General and Governments to give full attention to the rights of children with disabilities;

7. Encourages the United Nations and Governments to involve organizations of persons with disabilities in policy planning and decision-making processes regarding education, communications, employment and health services;

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[9] A/52/56, annex.

8. Also encourages the United Nations and Governments to enhance cooperation, through appropriate mechanisms of cooperation, with organizations of persons with disabilities or concerned with disability issues so as to improve the implementation of the Standard Rules;

9. Urges the United Nations, Governments and the non-governmental organizations concerned to combat the sexual abuse of persons with disabilities;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to invite appropriate United Nations bodies to provide advisory services and support to Governments in their efforts to develop disability policies based on the Standard Rules and thereby collaborate with the focal point in its role as policy coordinating body and with organizations of persons with disabilities;

11. Encourages the United Nations Development Programme and other entities of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and inter-agency mechanisms, to mainstream disability issues in their development activities and in their efforts to eradicate poverty;

12. Requests the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to ensure that the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the World Health Organization and all other relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system take into account, in their policies and programmes, the rights of children with disabilities and mainstream the particular needs of such children;

13. Invites the Special Rapporteur and the Committee on the Rights of the Child to pursue and enhance their cooperation to ensure that the rights of children with disabilities are fully addressed in the Committee's reporting process;

14. Calls upon Governments, when formulating national policies and strategies during the International Decade for the Eradication of Poverty, to combat the social exclusion of persons with disabilities, to promote their employment and to include disability measures in poverty eradication programmes;

15. Urges all Governments to provide education for disabled children, youth and adults, regardless of the nature of the disability, in accordance with the Salamanca Statement and Framework for Action on Special Needs Education;[10]

16. Urges Governments that have not ratified International Labour Organization Convention (No. 159) concerning Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment (Disabled Persons) to consider doing so, in order to strengthen their policies, and to use the opportunity to obtain technical assistance from the International Labour Organization, and urges Governments that have ratified the Convention to seek further guidance when implementing it, in the accompanying Recommendation No. 168;

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[10] See "Report of the World Conference on Special Needs Education: Access and Quality", held at Salamanca, Spain, on 7 June 1994 (UNESCO, Paris, 1994).

17. Encourages donors to provide assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their efforts to address the needs of persons with disabilities and encourages Governments of recipient countries to include disability matters in their applications for such assistance;

18. Decides to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further period of three years, so as to make it possible to continue the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules in accordance with section IV of the Rules, and to request the Special Rapporteur, assisted by the Secretariat and in consultation with the panel of experts, to prepare a report for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session;

19. Requests the Special Rapporteur to pay special attention to the situation of children with disabilities when monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules;

20. Urges States to make contributions to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability so as to support initiatives on disability and also urges them to support, by financial and other means, the important work of the Special Rapporteur;

21. Requests the Secretary-General to include in his reports to the Commission at its thirty-sixth and thirty-seventh sessions information on activities within the United Nations system that relate to the Commission's priority theme of promoting the social integration of disabled persons and its priority theme of social services for all, and to counteract the social exclusion facing persons with disabilities and eradicate poverty among them.

DRAFT RESOLUTION III

Children with disabilities

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[6] and other international human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] which proclaim that the rights therein should be ensured equally to all individuals without discrimination,

Recalling also the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[11] and the Long-term Strategy to Implement the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[12] as well as the various resolutions and declarations adopted by the General Assembly relating to persons with physical, mental and psychological

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[11] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

[12] A/49/435, annex.

disabilities, including the Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons[13] and the Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons,[14]

Recalling further the disability provisions in the results of international conferences, including the World Conference on Special Needs Education: Access and Quality, held at Salamanca, Spain, in 1994[10] and the World Summit for Social Development, held at Copenhagen in 1995,[15]

Welcoming the report of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development on monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,[9]

Noting with appreciation the activities in support of disability issues carried out by non-governmental organizations,

Convinced that disability is not inability and that it is critically important to take a positive view of abilities as the basis of planning for persons with disabilities, in particular children with disabilities,

1. Recognizes the need for special attention to be directed towards children with disabilities and their families or other caretakers;

2. Notes with concern the large numbers of children who have become disabled physically or mentally, or both, as a consequence, inter alia, of poverty, disease, disasters, land mines and all forms of violence;

3. Urges both Governments and the Secretary-General to give full attention to the rights, special needs and welfare of children with disabilities;

4. Invites Governments, concerned United Nations organizations and bodies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization, and non-governmental organizations, especially those of persons with disabilities, to conduct awareness-raising activities, with a view to combating and overcoming discrimination against children with disabilities;

5. Encourages further cooperation among Governments, in coordination, where appropriate, with the United Nations Children's Fund, other relevant United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations, to nurture the talents and potential of children with disabilities by developing and disseminating appropriate technologies and know-how;

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[13] General Assembly resolution 2856 (XXVI).

[14] General Assembly resolution 3447 (XXX).

[15] See Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

6. Encourages Governments to include data on children when implementing rule 13 on information and research of the Standard Rules;

7. Urges Governments to ensure, in accordance with rule 6 of the Standard Rules, that children with disabilities have equal access to education and that their education is an integral part of the educational system and also urges Governments to provide vocational preparatory training appropriate for children with disabilities;

8. Invites the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to continue its programme activities aimed at the integration of children and youth with disabilities into mainstream education and to provide appropriate assistance to Governments, at their request, in designing and setting up programmes to encourage the creative, artistic and intellectual potential of children, including those with disabilities;

9. Calls upon Governments to ensure the participation of children with disabilities in recreational activities and sports;

10. Emphasizes the right of children with disabilities to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and urges Governments to ensure the provision of equal access to comprehensive health services and the adoption of holistic approaches to the total well-being of all children with disabilities, particularly children at highest risk, including refugee, displaced or migrant children, children living in situations of violence and its immediate aftermath, children living in disaster areas, street children and children in squatter colonies;

11. Encourages Governments to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability;

12. Requests the Special Rapporteur, in monitoring the implementation of the Standard Rules, to pay special attention to the situation of children with disabilities, to pursue close working relations with the Committee on the Rights of the Child in its monitoring role with respect to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to include in his report to the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-eighth session his findings, views, observations and recommendations on children with disabilities.

DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, including a World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/81 of 14 December 1995, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, annexed thereto, as an integral part of that resolution,

Noting especially that in paragraph 123 of the Programme of Action current regional and interregional conferences of ministers responsible for youth affairs in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and Western Asia were invited to intensify cooperation among each other and to consider meeting regularly at the international level under the aegis of the United Nations to provide an effective forum for a focused global dialogue on youth-related issues,

Noting also that in paragraph 124 of the Programme of Action youth-related bodies and organizations of the United Nations system were invited to cooperate with the above-mentioned conferences,

Welcoming the second session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations System at Vienna from 25 to 29 November 1996, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 44/59 of 8 December 1989 and 50/81, which was convened by the United Nations in partnership with the Austrian Federal Youth Council, and taking note of the report of the Forum,[16]

Mindful that the Secretary-General, in his report on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond,[17] recommended that action be taken to implement the global recommendations of the Programme of Action and that a report be submitted to the General Assembly through the Commission for Social Development on progress achieved and obstacles encountered,

Reiterating the call on all States that have not already done so to formulate and adopt an integrated national youth policy, in consultation with youth and youth-related organizations, as reflected in paragraph 112 of the Programme of Action,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

2. Calls upon all States, all United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies, the regional commissions and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in particular youth organizations, to make all possible efforts for the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, in accordance with their experience, situation and priorities;

3. Encourages the regional commissions, within their mandates, pursuant to the Programme of Action, to convene biennial meetings of regional youth non-governmental organizations, regional offices of youth-related bodies and organizations of the United Nations system and regional intergovernmental organizations to review and discuss issues and trends as well as regional action;

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[16] A/52/80-E/1997/14, annex.

[17] A/52/60-E/1997/6.

4. Stresses again the importance of the active and direct participation of youth and youth organizations at the local, national, regional and international levels in promoting and implementing the Programme of Action and in evaluating the progress achieved and obstacles encountered in its implementation, as well as the importance of the need to support the activities of youth mechanisms that have been set up by youth and youth organizations;

5. Welcomes the offer of the Government of Portugal to host a World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, to be held at Lisbon from 8 to 12 August 1998 in cooperation with the United Nations;

6. Notes with appreciation that the Government of Portugal has agreed to support the participation of ministers responsible for youth in the least developed countries as identified by the General Assembly;

7. Invites all States, youth-related bodies, organizations and agencies of the United Nations system, the intergovernmental organizations concerned, as well as non-governmental youth organizations, to support that Conference;

8. Recommends that the report of the Conference be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session through the Commission for Social Development at its thirty-seventh session.

DRAFT RESOLUTION V

Follow-up to the International Year of the Family

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 44/82 of 8 December 1989, 46/92 of 16 December 1991, 47/237 of 20 December 1993 and 50/142 of 21 December 1995 concerning the proclamation, preparations for and observance of the International Year of the Family,

"Recognizing that the basic objective of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family should be to strengthen and support families in performing their societal and developmental functions and to build upon their strengths, particularly at the national and local levels,

"Noting that the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the world conferences of the 1990s provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development,

"Emphasizing that equality between women and men and respect for the rights of all family members is essential to family well-being and society at large,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the International Year of the Family[18] and welcomes the proposals contained therein;

"2. Invites Governments to continue their actions to build family-friendly societies, inter alia, by promoting the rights of individual family members, in particular gender equality and the rights of the child;

"3. Emphasizes the need for a more focused and coordinated approach towards family issues within the United Nations system;

"4. Calls upon Governments, non-governmental organizations, other organizations of civil society, the private sector and individuals to contribute generously to the United Nations Trust Fund on Family Activities;

"5. Urges Governments to take sustained action at all levels concerning families, including studies and applied research on families, and to promote the role of families in development and invites Governments to develop concrete measures and approaches to address national priorities to deal with family issues;

"6. Recommends that all relevant actors in civil society, including research and academic institutions, contribute to and participate in actions on families;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to play an active role in facilitating international cooperation within the framework of the follow-up to the International Year of the Family, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information among Governments on effective policies and strategies, to facilitate technical assistance, with a focus on least developed and developing countries, and to encourage the organization of subregional and interregional meetings and relevant research;

"8. Calls upon Governments to encourage the active follow-up to the International Year of the Family at the national and local levels;

"9. Reaffirms Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/7, in which the Council decided that the follow-up to the International Year of the Family should be an integral part of the multi-year work programme of the Commission for Social Development."

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[18] A/52/57-E/1997/4.

B. Draft decision

The Commission for Social Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-fifth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-fifth session and endorses the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Commission;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission set out below.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development:

The Commission will review progress made in the implementation and follow-up to the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development and consider at each of its sessions issues relating to the enabling environment for social development, the special situation of Africa and the least developed countries, enhancement of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes, the mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development, and the framework for international, regional and subregional cooperation for social development.

(a) Priority theme: Promoting social integration and participation of all people, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and persons;

The Commission will consider the following specific topics: (i) promoting social integration through responsive government, full participation in society, non-discrimination, tolerance, equality and social justice; (ii) enhancing social protection, reducing vulnerability and enhancing employment opportunities for groups with specific needs; and (iii) violence, crime and the problem of illicit drugs and substance abuse as factors of social disintegration. The

Commission will consider the specific topics also from a gender perspective.

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on promoting social integration and participation

Report of the Secretary-General on different options for the future review and appraisal of the International Plan of Action on Ageing.

4. Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission.

5. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-sixth session.

C. Decision calling for action by the Council

The following decision adopted by the Commission for Social Development calls for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Decision 35/101. Nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

At its 9th meeting, on 4 March 1997, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Commission for Social Development decided to nominate, for confirmation by the Economic and Social Council, the following new candidates for membership in the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development for a four-year term beginning on 1 July 1997: Heba Alimad Handoussa (Egypt), Eveline Herfkens (Netherlands), Graça Simbine Machel (Mozambique), Marcia Rivera (United States of America) and Gita Sen (India).

4. COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

A. Draft resolutions

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General concerning the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[1]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children,[2] and the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[3]

Recalling also its resolution 1996/5 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[4] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Aware of the signing by the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Government of Israel of the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements on 13 September 1993[5] and of the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip on 28 September 1995, both in Washington, D.C., within the framework of the Middle East peace process,

Concerned about the continuing difficult situation of Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and about the severe consequences of continuous Israeli illegal settlements activities as well as the harsh economic conditions and other consequences for the situation of Palestinian women and their families, resulting from the frequent closure and isolation of the occupied territory,

1. Stresses its support for the Middle East peace process and the need for full implementation of the agreements already reached between the parties;

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[1] E/CN.6/1997/2, sect. II.A.

[2] Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[3] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[4] General Assembly resolution 48/104.

[5] A/48/486-S/26560, annex.

2. Reaffirms that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development planning of their society;

3. Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[6] the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907[7] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[8] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. Calls upon Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties in the occupied Palestinian territory, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. Urges Member States, financial organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other relevant institutions to intensify their efforts to provide financial and technical assistance to Palestinian women for the creation of projects responding to their needs, especially during the transitional period;

6. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means, and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-second session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Agreed conclusions on the critical areas of concern

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/203 of 22 December 1995 and 51/69 of 12 December 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,

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[6] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[7] Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907 (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[8] United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996 on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, by which a multi-year programme of work for the Commission on the Status of Women was adopted as a framework for assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of the Platform for Action,

Noting that the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-first session reviewed progress achieved in implementation of the Platform for Action in the critical areas of concern: women and the environment; women in power and decision-making; women and the economy; and the education and training of women; and proposed ways and means to accelerate implementation in those four areas,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on thematic issues before the Commission[9] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. Calls upon Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies and other international organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society to cooperate in implementing the strategies adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women and other recent international conferences;

3. Also calls upon Governments, the United Nations system and other international organizations to mainstream a gender perspective into all policies and programmes, while maintaining institutional arrangements to carry out research and develop methodologies and tools for mainstreaming and to advocate for gender equality and the enjoyment by women of their human rights;

4. Endorses the agreed conclusions of the Commission on the Status of Women on women and the environment; women in power and decision-making; women and the economy; and the education and training of women.[10]

B. Draft decisions

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

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[9] E/CN.6/1997/3.

[10] For the texts of the agreed conclusions, see chap. I, sect. C.1, of the report of the Commission (E/1997/27).

DRAFT DECISION I

Renewal of the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Economic and Social Council decides:

(a) To renew the mandate of the in-session Open-ended Working Group on the Elaboration of a Draft Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, so that it may continue its work, pursuant to Council resolution 1995/29 of 24 July 1995, during the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women;

(b) To authorize the Working Group to meet in parallel with the Commission at its forty-second and forty-third sessions;

(c) To invite a representative of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to attend these meetings as a resource person.

DRAFT DECISION II

Functional commissions

The Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind the Programme of Action adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights,[11] the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[12] and the Beijing Platform for Action,[13] and recalling General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 51/96, 51/118 and 51/202 dealing with the implementation of the outcome of United Nations conferences and the role of the functional commissions in the three-tiered intergovernmental process in the follow-up to the above-mentioned programmes of action, decides that every effort should be made to ensure that there is no overlap in the work of the functional commissions engaged in the follow-up to United Nations conferences.

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[11] See Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

[12] Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[13] Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

DRAFT DECISION III

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-first session and approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission set out below.

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women:

(a) Review of mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system

Mid-term review of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern.

Documentation

Analytical report of the Secretary-General on the thematic issues before the Commission in accordance with the multi-year work programme, including, as far as possible, progress made in national implementation, based on available existing data and statistics

Synthesis report on implementation plans of Governments, based, inter alia, on national action plans and any other sources of information already available in the United Nations system

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Lists of confidential and non-confidential communications concerning the status of women

5. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, including the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention.

6. Provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-second session.

5. COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

A. Draft resolution

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Science and technology for development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recognizing the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as a forum for the examination of science and technology questions, for improving understanding of science and technology policies for development, and for the formulation of recommendations and guidelines on science and technology matters within the United Nations system, all in relation to development,

Also recognizing that the Commission, in carrying out its work, should pay special attention to the needs and requirements of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and landlocked and small island developing States, and that it should in addition take into consideration the relevant problems of countries with economies in transition,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Commission's Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies for Development[1] and the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing that the social and economic potential of information and communication technologies is enormous, and that the risks for those without the capabilities to access, design, produce and use the new products and service applications may lead to their marginalization from active participation in the global economy,

Noting with satisfaction the report on the scientific and technological aspects of sustainable energy systems,[2]

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[1] See E/CN.16/1997/4.

[2] See E/CN.16/1997/3.

Also noting with satisfaction the report by the Gender Advisory Board on its work,[3]

Further noting with satisfaction that the science, technology and innovation policy reviews directed at a broad spectrum of sectors, including industry, social sectors and government itself, have started with one review already completed, another under way and a third awaiting financing,

Noting the other relevant documentation submitted to the Commission for consideration at its third session,[4]

Also noting that the fourth session of the Commission is scheduled to take place 20 years after the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, held at Vienna, and recognizing that there is a need to define a new vision and to enhance continuously the role for the United Nations system in the area of science and technology for development,

Recalling Commission decision 2/101 on its working methods, which was ratified by the Council,

Recognizing that enhanced transparency and accountability are essential for the efficient and effective functioning of the Commission,

Welcoming the initiative taken by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in holding a World Science Conference in 1999 to strengthen the commitment of countries to scientific research and development in the service of societal progress,

Activities as follow-up to the earlier work of the Commission

A. Information and communication technologies for development

1. Recommends that each developing country and country in transition establish a national strategy for information and communication technologies, taking into account, inter alia, the guidelines proposed by the Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies for Development of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Where such strategies already exist, they could be reviewed in the light of those guidelines;

2. Recommends that action be taken by national Governments to establish a task force or commission, or to ensure that an existing entity be charged with the design of the national strategy for information and communication technologies;

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[3] As summarized in E/CN.16/1997/8, paras. 19-22.

[4] E/CN.16/1997/2, 3, 5 and 7; E/CN.16/1997/CRP.1-5; and E/CN.16/1997/Misc.1-5.

3. Invites countries, in order to facilitate the exchange of experience among them at the international and regional levels, to prepare a report on their strategies for information and communication technologies for the next session of the Commission, to be held in 1999. Countries' reports should include the priorities of each national strategy, the mechanisms for updating, and the procedures for implementing the strategy, and to enhance the value of the reports, consideration might be given to the organization of workshops, all of which should be financed from extrabudgetary resources;

4. Invites relevant bodies of the United Nations system to assess their capability to provide assistance and promote cooperation in the area of information and communication technologies, and to suggest areas in which they are best able to assist developing countries and countries in transition in the design and implementation of their national strategies for information and communication technologies;

5. Requests the secretariat of the Commission to synthesize the results of those assessments, and - within existing resources - to hold an inter-agency meeting in cooperation with the Commission to review that synthesis;

6. Invites Governments, the public and business sectors, academia and non-governmental organizations in industrialized countries to engage in technological cooperation activities with their counterparts in developing countries and countries in transition in order to facilitate their access, encourage the use, production and development of information and communication technologies, and to ensure their effective participation in building the global information infrastructure;

7. Requests the Commission to identify an independent institute to prepare a study for the next session of the Commission on new forms of resource generation, focusing on information and communication technologies that might support social and economic development priorities;

B. Science, technology and innovation policy reviews

8. Decides that the Commission shall organize a workshop comparing experience in science, technology and innovation policy or similar reviews in developing countries and countries in transition in order to stimulate a learning process in those innovative efforts, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;

9. Recommends the continuation of cooperation between the Commission and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on science, technology and information policy reviews;

C. Common vision of the future of science and technology for development

10. Recommends that the Commission, in the form of expert group meetings, carry out a programme of preparation, as outlined in the report of the meeting

of the preparatory working group on that subject, held on 20 and 21 December 1996 at Geneva,[5] taking into account regional inputs;

D. Gender Advisory Board

11. Requests the Gender Advisory Board to continue its work as reported, in collaboration with all relevant organizations, in particular those within the United Nations system;

E. New substantive theme and other activities

12. Decides that the substantive theme for the inter-sessional period 1997-1999 will be "Science and technology partnerships and networking for national capacity-building". The theme will include North-South as well as South-South partnerships and networks involving, inter alia, enterprises, educational bodies, research institutions, governmental science and technology departments, and other actors in the field of science and technology, with particular attention to be paid to biotechnology and energy;

13. Also decides to hold a panel meeting on biotechnology and its impact on development, bringing together country experts and experts from relevant institutions and United Nations agencies working on that subject, in order to identify critical issues relevant to development that are not sufficiently covered by existing forums, with particular attention to food production, and in order to recommend how further work on those issues might be undertaken;

F. Budget and inter-sessional activities

14. Recommends that at future sessions of the Commission, the report on the budget and inter-sessional activities of the Commission be considered under a separate agenda item;

G. Coordination of science and technology for development in the United Nations system

15. Decides that the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development shall be requested to study the possibility of setting up, in collaboration with other United Nations bodies, including regional commissions, an electronic network on their activities in science and technology for development, making that network widely accessible to science and technology institutes around the world;

16. Also decides that in order to promote better interaction with United Nations bodies, especially the regional commissions, the Commission shall give consideration to including suitably qualified members of those bodies in the

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[5] See E/CN.16/1997/CRP.2.

working groups of the Commission. In addition, meetings of the Commission's working groups might be held in the offices of the regional commissions, whenever possible;

H. Coalition of resources

17. Recommends that a workshop be convened by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to provide a forum for coalition of resources, particularly in relation to information and communication technologies.

B. Draft decisions

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Election of the members of the Bureau other than the Chairman

The Economic and Social Council* decides:

(a) That an organizational meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development shall be held at Geneva or in New York as early as possible in January 1998 for a duration of half a day, within existing resources, for the sole purpose of electing the members of the Commission's Bureau other than the Chairman, the meeting to be attended by representatives of permanent missions at either venue;

(b) That the current members of the Bureau shall stay in office until 31 December 1997.

DRAFT DECISION II

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its third session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fourth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its third session;

(b) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the fourth session of the Commission set out below:

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* For the discussion, see chap. VII.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Substantive theme: "Science and technology partnerships and networking for national capacity-building".

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General

3. Panel on biotechnology.

   Documentation

   Reports of the panel on biotechnology

4. Common vision on the future of science and technology for development on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development.

   Documentation

   Report of panels/working groups on common vision on the future of science and technology for development

5. Budget and inter-sessional activities of the Commission.

   Documentation

   Note by the secretariat

6. Coalition of resources.

   Documentation

   Note by the secretariat

7. Comprehensive note on implementation and progress made on decisions taken at the third session of the Commission, including follow-up work on information communication technologies and science, technology and innovation policy review.

   Documentation

   Note by the secretariat

8. Role and activities of the Commission regarding the coordination of science and technology for development.

Documentation

Note by the secretariat

9. Election of the Chairperson and other officers for the fifth session of the Commission.

10. Provisional agenda and organization of work for the fifth session of the Commission.

11. Other matters.

12. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fourth session.

6. Commission on Sustainable Development

The Commission has submitted no draft proposals for action by the Council. Matters brought to the attention of the Council are contained in the report of the Commission (E/1997/29).

B. Regional commissions

All proposals for action by the Council are contained in document E/1997/40/Add.1.

C. Expert bodies composed of governmental experts

COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS

The Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

DRAFT RESOLUTION

Work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1995/5 and 1995/6 of 19 July 1995,

Recalling also its decision 1996/301 of 26 July 1996 by which it invited the Committee, when examining the question of periodicity of amendments to the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, to take fully into account

the views expressed by delegations during the substantive session of 1996 of the Council,

Bearing in mind the increasing volume of dangerous goods in worldwide commerce and the rapid expansion of technology and innovation,

Bearing also in mind the continuing need to meet the growing concern for the protection of life, property and the environment through the safe transport of dangerous goods, while facilitating trade,

Aware that, in order to achieve internationally harmonized laws, the Economic Commission for Europe, the International Maritime Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization and other specialized agencies and international organizations involved in activities related to the transport of dangerous goods and interested Member States have responded positively to the Council's various resolutions adopted since 15 April 1953, and that, being committed to taking the recommendations of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods as a basis for the formulation of their requirements and regulations, including those concerning labelling and classification, those organizations therefore rely on the work of the Committee,

Aware also of the advice of the Committee to the effect that reformatting the provisions applicable to all modes of transport contained in the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods[1] into a model regulation, annexed to a basic recommendation, which could be directly integrated into all modal national and international regulations would enhance harmonization, facilitate regular updating of all instruments concerned by the relevant organizations or regulatory authorities, and result in considerable overall savings for the Governments of the Member States, the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other international organizations,

Reconfirming the need for the Committee to participate actively in relevant activities associated in the implementation of Agenda 21,[2] as expressed in its resolution 1995/6,

A. Work of the Committee of Experts during the biennium 1995-1996

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods during the biennium

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[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.VIII.1.

[2] Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (vol. I and vol. I/Corr.1, vol. II, vol. III and vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

1995-1996,[3] and in particular of:

(a) The adoption of new and amended provisions[4] for inclusion in the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods;[1]

(b) The completion of the first step in the reformatting of the existing Recommendations into a model regulation annexed to a basic recommendation;[5]

(c) The elaboration, pursuant to resolution 1995/6, of proposals for criteria for the classification of flammable, explosive and reactive materials, globally harmonized for various regulatory purposes, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization in the context of the implementation of chapter 19 of Agenda 21; and the concurrence of the Committee with the request from the International Labour Organization for pursuing the work in 1997-1998 for unresolved issues on the same basis as in 1995-1996;

2. Commends the Secretary-General for the timely publication of the ninth revised edition of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods in all the official languages of the United Nations and for the publication of the second revised edition of the Manual of Tests and Criteria in English, French, Spanish and Russian;[6]

3. Requests the Secretary-General:

(a) To circulate the new and amended recommendations to the Governments of Member States, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other international organizations concerned;

(b) To publish a consolidated version of the Recommendations, as amended,[7] in the reformatted form of a model regulation, annexed to a basic recommendation, including the new and amended recommended provisions, in all the official languages of the United Nations, in the most cost-effective manner, not later than the end of 1997;

(c) To expedite the publication, in the most cost-effective manner, of the second revised edition of the Manual of Tests and Criteria in Arabic and Chinese;

4. Invites all Governments, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the other international organizations concerned to

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[3] E/1997/16.

[4] See ST/SG/AC.10/23/Add.1.

[5] ST/SG/AC.10/23/Add.2.

[6] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.VIII.2.

[7] ST/SG/AC.10/1/Rev.10.

transmit to the Secretary-General their views on the Committee's work, together with any comments that they may wish to make on the amended recommendations;

5. Invites all interested Governments, regional commissions and specialized agencies and the international organizations concerned, when developing or updating appropriate codes and regulations, to take full account of the recommendations, including the structure and format of such codes and regulations;

B. Programme of work for the biennium 1997-1998

6. Approves the programme of work of the Committee and its Subcommittee for the biennium 1997-1998 and the working arrangements and the priorities of work for that biennium, as follows:

(a) Global harmonization of systems of classification and labelling of chemicals (implementation of chapter 19 of Agenda 21), in accordance with Council resolution 1995/6;

(b) Second step in the reformatting of the Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods into a model regulation;

(c) New or revised recommendations on the transport of dangerous goods;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary steps for ensuring secretariat representation of the Committee at appropriate meetings of international organizations committed to implementing the recommendations of the Committee or involved in the process of global harmonization of classification and labelling systems for chemicals;

C. Periodicity of amendments to the Recommendations

8. Takes note of the advice of the Committee that:

(a) A new and revised version of the Recommendations should be published after completion of the second step of reformatting - that is, in 1999, after the 1998 session of the Committee;

(b) The new and revised version should be implemented by the various international organizations concerned with the transport of dangerous goods through their respective modal instruments by 1 January 2001;

(c) No firm decision as regards a possible future four-year periodicity of amendments should be taken as long as the processes of reformatting the Recommendations into a model regulation, annexed to a basic recommendation, and of global harmonization of systems of classification and labelling of chemicals for the implementation of Agenda 21 have not been completed;

9. Invites the Committee to reconsider the issue at its 1998 session;

D. Report to the Council

10. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Council in 1999 on the implementation of the present resolution.

D. Expert bodies composed of members serving in their own capacity

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights recommends the following decisions to the Council for its adoption:

DRAFT DECISION I

Extraordinary additional session for the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Concerned that there is currently a backlog of reports awaiting consideration by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which will take up to three years to clear on the basis of existing arrangements,

Welcoming the adoption by the Committee at its sixteenth session in May 1997 of a range of additional procedural reforms designed to improve and expedite the reporting arrangements,

Approves, on an exceptional basis, the holding of one additional three-week session of the Committee in the course of 1998, as well as a pre-sessional Working Group of one week's duration.

DRAFT DECISION II

Holding of the nineteenth session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in New York (16 November-4 December 1998)

The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Noting that the resolution by which it was originally established provided that its sessions would alternate between Geneva and New York,

Emphasizing the need to make its activities and concerns accessible to a wider range of participants,

Noting that there is a very different potential constituency which might follow its work in New York, including government delegations, non-governmental organizations, the media and international agencies,

Noting that one of every three sessions of the Human Rights Committee is held in New York and that this has contributed very significantly to improving the profile and prominence of the work of that Committee,

Requests that the Economic and Social Council consider approval of the following decision:

The Economic and Social Council,

Noting that the effectiveness and profile of the work of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights could be further enhanced by holding occasional sessions in New York,

Approves the holding of the Committee's nineteenth session, in late 1998, in New York.

DRAFT DECISION III

Payment of honoraria to members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decisions 1993/297 of 28 July 1993 and 1995/302 A of 25 July 1995 to approve the payment of an honorarium to members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Noting that this request was forwarded to the General Assembly in 1993 and 1995 and that no action has yet been taken on the matter,

Noting further that honoraria are already being paid to members of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child,

Calls upon the General Assembly to take prompt action to remedy the situation by approving the payment of an honorarium, as from 1997, for the members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.